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PROGRAM CBS Morning News STATION WDM-TV  
CBS Network

DATE April 22, 1982 7:30 A.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Admiral Resigning

DIANE SAWYER: Surprise and dismay are the reactions in Washington to the word that Admiral Bobby Inman is resigning as the Deputy Director of the CIA and ending his 30-year career in the Navy. Inman is widely considered this country's best professional spy.

Robert Schakne reports on the public and private comments about his departure.

ROBERT SCHAKNE: Admiral Inman has told associates he's resigning partly for personal financial reasons. With children nearing college age, he plans to take a job in the private sector. But Inman has also told associates he does not enjoy being number two to CIA Director William Casey. He and Casey have not always agreed. And Inman is well aware that a number of senators and congressmen think that he, and not Casey, should be running the agency.

His resignation letter suggests he'd stay on with a better government job. He's retiring, he wrote the President, "in the absence of another active duty assignment, which I do not anticipate."

Admiral Inman has had his share of public differences with the White House national security staff. A year ago, when the White House drew up proposed new guidelines putting the CIA into domestic intelligence gathering, Inman called the proposals repugnant, and he threatened to quit.

Inman is a favorite among members of congressional intelligence committees.

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MAN: He'd built up a reservoir of trust that nobody else has. And you're not going to replace that overnight.

SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN: And let me say that it is a blow to the intelligence community. He is a master technician and a person much involved in intelligence.

SCHAKNE: Inman has told friends on Capitol Hill he's not leaving because of any policy difference. Still, his departure is likely to cause a lot of uneasiness in Congress, where Bobby Inman is highly regarded and trusted, and William Casey is not.